

Safety On The Road

Stop Vehicle Fires Before They Start!

Vehicle fires are more common than you think. They can start in conditions as simple as faulty wiring, overheated brakes or hot tires, or fires can be set off in vehicle fuel or flammable cargo after an accident. Many drivers have died in such fires, particularly those caused by traffic accidents.

Prevention is the best method to avoid vehicle fires. Proper electrical and mechanical condition and cleanliness of your vehicle are your best defense. You can also avoid fires by using safe driving techniques.

Here are some ways to prevent fires in vehicles:

- Practice good housekeeping. Keep your cab free of litter such as paper, oily rags and matchbooks.
- Turn off your engine for refueling.
- Do not smoke around your vehicle. If you do smoke in the cab, use extreme care when disposing of smoking materials.

- Have the vehicle maintained properly. The engine compartment must be kept free of excessive oil and dirt.

- The wiring should be checked regularly. The battery should be kept clean. Battery terminal connections should be checked to make sure they are tight.

- Brakes should be checked frequently. Release the parking brakes completely before you move the vehicle.

- Do not ride the brakes because this causes overheating.

- Dual tires should be properly matched and adequately spaced.

- Check all tires at all safety check stops. Change low or flat tires as soon as you discover them.

- When you glance at your side and rearview mirrors, be alert to signs of smoke that could indicate a cargo fire.

- Be aware of any special fire precautions. Know the correct fire response for the type of cargo you are carrying.

- When loading or unloading tankers of flammable liquids, grounding wires must be attached to prevent static sparks that can set off fires and explosions. Observe all other precautions for handling these materials to avoid static sparking.

- Carry the correct sizes and types of fire extinguishers for your vehicle and cargo. For many vehicles an ABC or a BC combination extinguisher will be required. The size of extinguisher will also be regulated.

- Get training so you know how to use an extinguisher and how to fight a small fire.

These fire precautions are important for motor vehicles of all sizes. A vehicle fire can be a costly and a deadly event!

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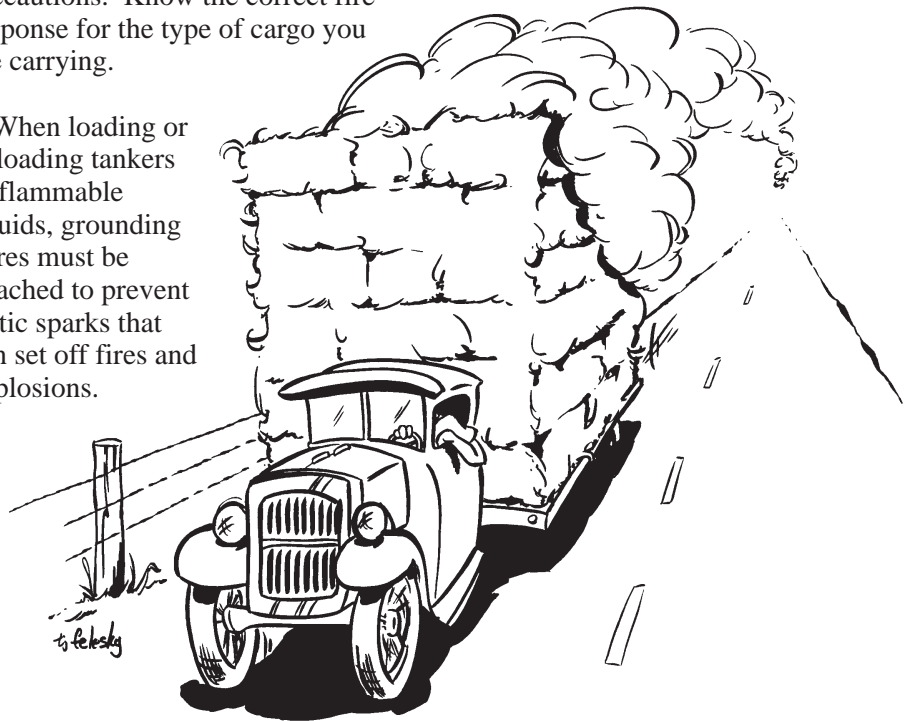
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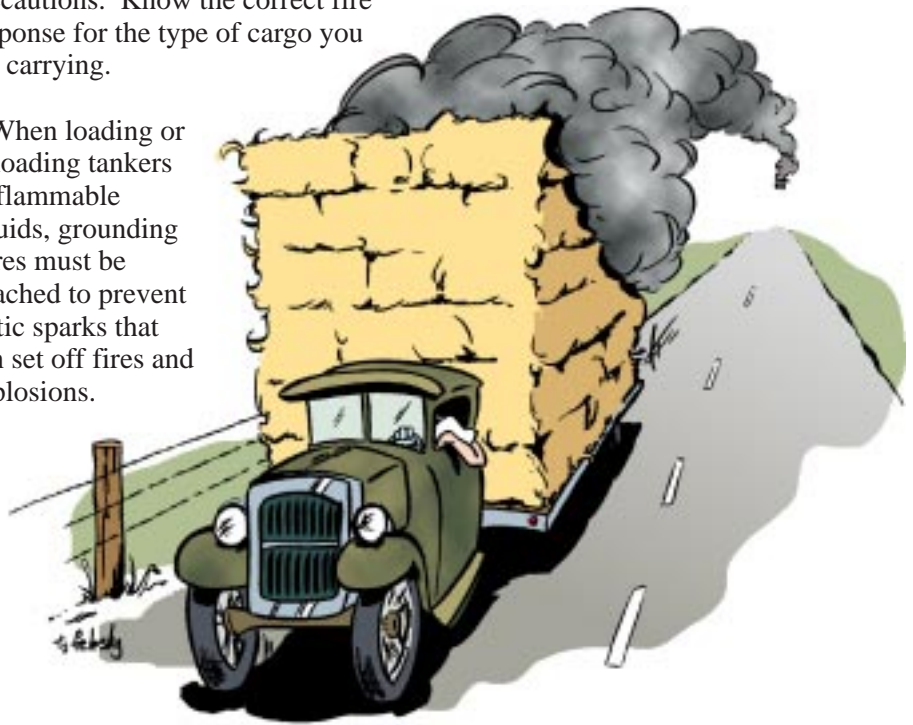
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